

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

~~NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE~~

1. NAME																													
<p>COMMON: St. Mary's, Star of the Sea, Catholic Chapel</p> <p>AND/OR HISTORIC:</p>																													
2. LOCATION																													
<p>STREET AND NUMBER: Rt. 335, .1 mile east of Meekings Neck Rd., (north)</p> <p>CITY OR TOWN: Fishing Creek</p>																													
STATE:	COUNTY:																												
Maryland	Dorchester																												
3. CLASSIFICATION																													
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">CATEGORY (Check One)</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">OWNERSHIP</th> <th style="text-align: center;">STATUS</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> District</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public</td> <td colspan="2" rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Site</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Structure</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Object</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Both</td> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted</td> </tr> </table>	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Both			<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	OWNER'S NAME:				
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<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Both			<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted																								
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY																													
<p>OWNER'S NAME: St. Mary's, Star of the Sea</p>																													
<p>STREET AND NUMBER:</p>																													
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:																											
Cambridge		Maryland	1613																										
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION																													
<p>COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dorchester County Courthouse</p>																													
<p>STREET AND NUMBER: High Street</p>																													
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE																											
Cambridge		Maryland	21613																										
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):																													
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS																													
<p>TITLE OF SURVEY:</p>																													
<p>DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local</p>																													
<p>DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:</p>																													
<p>STREET AND NUMBER:</p>																													
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:																											

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)				(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Uncertified		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The parish of St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Hooper's Island, has two buildings of the nineteenth century. On the north side of the road stands the early nineteenth century Chapel, 29' x 23'. The exterior of the small 'A' roof structure has been restored with beaded clapboard, 12/12 sash and a paneled double door with transom. Possibly the building was moved from the other church as the piers are new and there are no traces of graves nearby. H. D. Forman mentions the structure in "Old Buildings, Gardens & Furniture In Tidewater Maryland", (Cambridge, Md. 1967). It might be pointed out that this structure greatly resembles the earlier chapel of Grace P.E. Church, Taylor's Island, although neither building retains original pews. Both have a simple sloping balcony with plain balustrade, supported on round columns. They both also possess quasi-inverted tray ceilings.

The late nineteenth century church, still in use, is a larger structure built in the late Gothic Revival style. It is three bays deep, with lancet windows having stained glass in the moveable sash and in both gables is a large rose window with quatrefoil design. In the facade, flanking the two lancet windows is a small vestibule. At the apex of the roof is a small square bell tower. On the rear of the chapel is an apse or sanctuary from which are leanto additions on both sides. Like its earlier predecessor, St. Mary's is a simple country chapel with a hint of architectural sophistication.

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B SIGNIFICANCE																																								
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century </div>																																								
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)																																								
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate) <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Aboriginal</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Political</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Science</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Art</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Military</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Music</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military			<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
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<p>St. Mary's Church is the earliest Catholic church standing in Dorchester County. Although 1769 is the date given for the construction of the building, it appears to be about the same date as Grace P.E. church on Taylor's Island (1819). The newer church is also a significant building for a turn-of-the-century chapel.</p> <p>"It was Richard Tubman II who built, on a corner of his plantation, the first Catholic Church in Dorchester County. He gave the land in 1769 and the church was named St. Mary, Star of the Sea and also called St. Mary's Chapel. This tiny wooden structure is still standing a short distance from the present St. Mary, Star of the Sea structure and is presently in the process of restoration. It is one of the oldest church structures in Maryland and was used as a church for 103 years until 1872."</p> <p>The structure of the first St. Mary, Star of the Sea (also referred to as The Tubman Chapel and St. Mary's Chapel) was sold to the county of Dorchester in 1872 and thereafter used as a schoolhouse for the next 52 years until 1925 when it was apparently abandoned and gradual deterioration set in. However, on August 1, 1961, Father Eugene Biggins, Pastor, wrote to the people of St. Mary, Star of Sea:</p> <p>"We have acquired the old church property. Our Bishop thought it fitting for us to have it. I take this occasion, therefore to thank Mr. & Mrs. John Russell Phillips, who wanted the church to have the property, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Belfiore and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Edgeworth (Washington & Baltimore Co.) who so generously and graciously donated the old church property to St. Mary, Star of the Sea."</p>																																								

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Catholic Church of Dorset, 1972.

Forman, H. C., Old Buildings Gardens and Furniture, Tide-water Publishers, Cambridge, 1967, p. 142-45.

Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State, Oxford University Press, New York, 1941, p. 408

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	O	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NE	° ' "	° ' "	O	° ' "	° ' "
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NDMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

District 6, Map 84, p. 25 (old), Ref, 003/070, 124/377
p. 26 (new), Ref, 003/070, 002/044

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Nov., 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

21401

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature

.38 x 1.27

75%

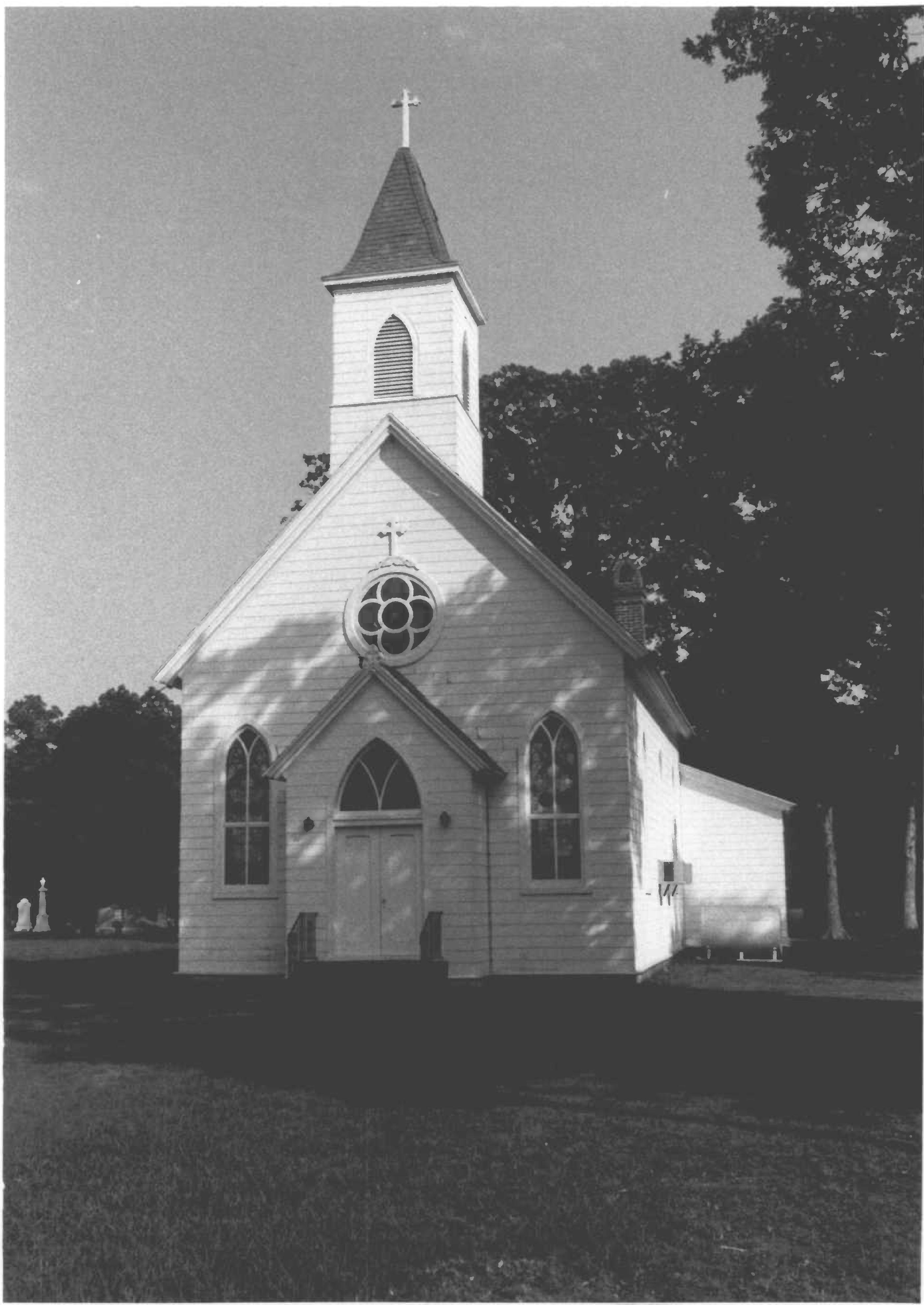
(D-18)



Mr. Miller's Stationery Co., Inc. 312 Broadway

D-1B

M. Bowe Nov 1975



.19 X 1.97

D-18A

53%

D -18

New St Mary's Star of the Sea